

MEDIA RELEASE

**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
March 6, 2007**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DAVID L. HUBER
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Western District of Kentucky**

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**FEDERAL GRAND JURY CHARGES CONVICTED FELON WITH
POSSESSING A FIREARM**

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today that a federal Grand Jury in Louisville **returned an Indictment** charging **RONALD D. PRIEST**, age 49, of 1054 Bluegrass Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky, in Jefferson County, with possession of a firearm after he had been convicted of a felony offense. Federal law prohibits convicted felons from possessing firearms and ammunition. On April 29, the Shively Police Department found Priest in his vehicle with a Rossie .38 caliber revolver.

The Indictment alleges that on or about April 29, 2006, **Priest** possessed a Rossi .38 caliber revolver after he had been convicted of a felony. The indictment alleges that Priest has been convicted of the following felony offenses:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>CASE NUMBER</u>	<u>COURT</u>
3-9-1979	first degree burglary (3 counts)	79-CR-0145	Jefferson Co., KY Circuit Court
4-10-1990	second degree manslaughter, second degree assault	89-CR-1773	Jefferson Co, KY Circuit Court

In the event of a conviction, **Priest** faces a potential mandatory minimum 15 year sentence.

The maximum potential penalties are life imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 5 years.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Thomas W. Dyke , and it was jointly investigated by the Shively Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Priest is scheduled to appear for arraignment before the United States Magistrate Judge on February 20, 2007, at 9:00 a.m., in Louisville, Kentucky.

This is a Project Backfire prosecution. Project Backfire is a cooperative effort by the Jefferson County Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County Commonwealth's Attorneys Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Shively Police Department, and the United States Attorney's Office to ensure that firearm offenses are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the state and federal law.

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The indictment of a person by a Grand Jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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